The Eastwood Hall of Fame 2024

Amy Huffman Pennell



Amy Huffman Pennell was born in 1963 in Bowling Green, Ohio, to Paul and Sarah Huffman. She was always making things or drawing on something as young as 3 years old. She grew up on a family produce farm on Route #6, Huffman's Market on "The Hill". Working on that farm with her close family of five siblings, parents who encouraged her to do anything, and growing up in Pemberville were the backbone that led to many other things.

She was an Eastwood graduate of 1981. Encouraged by her family and teachers: David Derr, Jean Long, and Denny Everhardt, she pursued a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Columbus College of Art & Design, with a major in Illustration, and a minor in Advertising.

She went to work for the largest architectural firm in Ohio, BÖHM-NBBJ as their lead illustrator, then to Retail Planning Associates as a retail store designer, designing new store prototypes for large, big box stores and international stores. She later had a design partnership company "The Drawing Room" for 15 years before moving to Kent, Ohio. She became a professor at Kent State University, teaching Design and Illustration while maintaining her own design company, Amy Pennell Inc.

- Varsity lettered in: marching band, basketball, soccer, and track, receiving the "Golden Eagle Award", stage band, theater, and set production

- Designed and created many visual projects for TV: The Ellen Show, Martha Stewart, Making It, Six Feet Under, Say Yes to the Dress, WKYC Channel 3 Cleveland, and Phyllis 2.0 YouTube

- Designed and created inspirational projects for magazines, the internet, and social media for: JoAnn Stores and Activity Connections. Created large-scale visuals for commercials and major corporate events

- Did many outreach projects: Boy Scouts, 4H, Girl Scouts, PTA, and St. Jude. Through her talents in painting and illustration: March of Dimes, Susan G. Komen Foundation's Gala in Chicago, and the Ravenna Clothing Center raising $50,000 for people needing help from community disasters

- Raised three children: Wesley, James, and MacKenzie with her husband, Mark Pennell

"I love and cherish the hardworking people from the Eastwood community. It will always be home to me."